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KORUS

M O N T H L Y

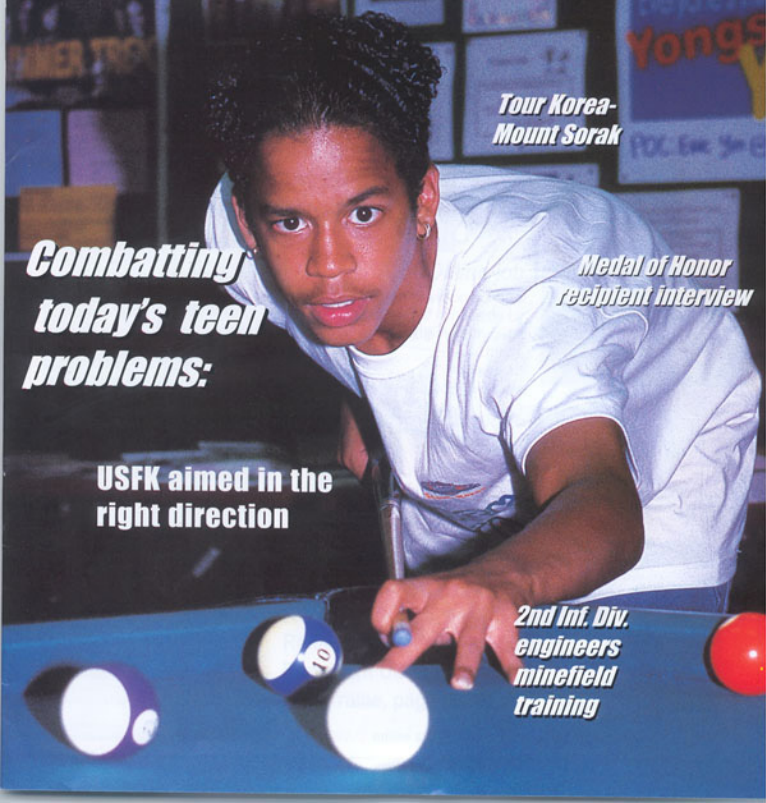
*Tour Korea-
Mount Sorak*

*Combatting
today's teen
problems:*

*Medal of Honor
recipient interview*

**USFK aimed in the
right direction**

*2nd Inf. Div.
engineers
minefield
training*



KORUS

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Cover

Jamie L. Robinson takes aim at the Yongsan Teen Center's day room. Robinson is one teenager living in Korea who is trying to keep himself busy and out of trouble this summer.

Photo by Pfc. Nicole C. Adams.
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Anthrax vaccinations not to slow down in Korea

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Press
Service

WASHINGTON, July 12, 2000 — DoD's dwindling supply of anthrax vaccine has forced a temporary slowdown in inoculations, except to those personnel serving or about to serve in high-threat areas of Southwest Asia and South Korea, defense officials said during a July 11 Pentagon press conference.

Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Randy L. West, senior adviser to the deputy secretary of defense for chemical and biological protection, said DoD is trying to avoid suspending or shutting down the anthrax inoculation program.

What's left of the vaccine is being largely reserved for the 10,000 DoD people "with boots on the ground" in Southwest Asia and 37,000 in South Korea,

said Dr. J. Jarrett Clinton, first assistant to the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

For the time being, most personnel in those areas who have begun the six-shot series will stop the inoculations if they rotate out. West said DoD guidance allows for local commanders' discretion, so, for instance, rotating soldiers might still get shots because the 10-dose vaccine vials can only be used or discarded once opened.

West attributed the slowdown to the inability of the sole contractor, Biopart of Lansing, Mich., to gain Food and Drug Administration approval for its production facility. He said immunizations will resume at full speed when the FDA approves and certifies a sufficient supply of vaccine as safe and effective, but he emphasized Biopart's own timetable doesn't call for its new vaccine to be available before the end of the year.



Staff Sgt. Cheryl Williams

Passing of the Colors

The color guard conducts a pass and review last month at the 18th Medical Command change of command ceremony, where Col. Edward C. Huycke took command from Col. James W. Kirkpatrick. The 18th Medical Command provides medical, dental and veterinary care throughout the peninsula.



Courtesy 17th Aviation Brigade

A bit shy of perfection

Peers toss Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army Cpl. Huh, Keun, 17th Aviation Brigade, Yongsan, into the air congratulating his achievement of graduating from the Primary Leadership Course with the highest score in the history of the Wightmen Noncommissioned Officers Academy at Camp Jackson, Uijongbu. Huh scored a 297.5 out of a possible 300 points.

KATUSAs are the only foreign soldiers serving in the U.S. Army.

Approximately 5,000 KATUSA soldiers currently serve with the Eighth U.S. Army.

PHOTO COURTESY 17TH AVIATION BRIGADE

U.S. personnel in ROK should be cautious

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Press Service

BEIJING, July 12, 2000 — U.S. personnel in the Republic of Korea need to be wary of anti-American sentiments caused by a number of converging factors, according to the commander of U.S. Pacific Command.

"The excitement of the summit (between North Korean and South Korean leaders) seems to have stirred up the level of and combination of resentment against the American presence which has always been held by some very small part of Korean society," Adm. Dennis Blair told reporters traveling here with Defense Secretary William S. Cohen.

Those recent meetings caused some in the south to call for the withdrawal of U.S. forces, Blair said.

South Korean President Dae-jung Kim, however, strongly supports a continued U.S. military presence, regardless of the successful talks in North Korea.

Kim said he would like U.S. troops to stay and anticipates that they will.

About 37,000 U.S. service members are stationed in South Korea.

Blair noted that a U.S. officer was recently killed outside a popular shopping area in Seoul by "an unbalanced person," and a "local issue" regarding a target range located near some villages sparked big demonstrations near Osan.

"The Korean officers I have talked to and officials do not see it as a long-term increase in antipathy toward the United States," Blair said. Still, U.S. military officials have "upped the level of concern" among U.S. personnel, he said.

"We haven't buttoned up the bases or any of that, but we still told people to watch out for each other, to be more careful because there's more disturbances in the area and some prudent measures are being taken," Blair said.

Nice catch

Petty Officer 2nd Class Jim Glerup, a storekeeper with Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Korea, leaps to catch a Frisbee during the Navy's Organizational Day picnic held at the Yongsan Garrison in Seoul July 14. Many of the roughly 200 sailors stationed there enjoyed the festivities with their families and friends. The event, celebrating the Navy's birthday (July 4), featured pick-up volleyball games, food, live entertainment and two inflatable jungle gyms.



Edgar R. Gonzalez

USFK personnel assaulted

Three unprovoked attacks on U.S. Forces Korea personnel took place last month near the Yongsan Army compound, adding greater emphasis on the need for military members to heed command force protection advisories.

In the last couple of months, five assaults on U.S. personnel have oc-

curred. A U.S. Army medical doctor was stabbed June 25 while walking in Itaewon; he died two days later. Prior to that a U.S. female family member was assaulted while shopping in the Tongdaemun district.

(Compiled from a July 19 USFK Press Release)

KORUS retracts photo

The June 2000 KORUS included coverage of a recent bodybuilding competition on Yongsan. One of the photos showed a U.S. soldier with a pierced belly button, which is a violation of Army Regulation 670-1, "Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia." The regulation states that soldiers in and out of uniform are prohibited from displaying pierced body parts while on military

installations worldwide, except for female troops with pierced earrings.

KORUS' policy is that we do not run photos demonstrating violations of military or policy. This particular photo slipped through our review process, and we thank all of our readers who brought this violation to our attention.

Talking with a Hero

By Staff Sgt. Gary L. Qualls

He sat submissively with a smile on his face. The fortunes of war left him with an unevenly shaped head and a difficulty verbalizing his thoughts. The war he found himself in here 50 years ago—yet alive to him as if it were yesterday – greatly hampered his life thereafter. Yet, there he remained, peaceful and content, ever smiling.

The man is Rodolfo P. Hernandez. He visited Korea last month with a contingent of Medal of Honor recipients to receive the Korean War Service Medal and to help commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Korean War.

Hernandez had not yet reached his 20th birthday when he faced the kind of cranked-up intensity few men ever experience. He, along with his unit, Company G, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, was in a defensive position near Wontong-ni. It was May 31, 1951, and the Korean War was well past the point of no return. Hernandez’s platoon came under an unabashed barrage of enemy fire from a larger force with no will for charity. The enemy was equipped with heavy artillery, mortar and machine gun fire, and they unleashed a vicious brand of punishment on Hernandez’s unit.

“They were really tearing us up,” Hernandez said. Hernandez, a squad leader, saw his own squad dwindle from nine soldiers to three – one of the fatal casualties being his good buddy.

Hernandez’s comrades soon ran out of ammunition as they defended against the relentless onslaught and were forced to withdraw. But Hernandez, despite being wounded in an exchange of grenades, was undaunted by the mortar, artillery and M60-round-spitting dragon that approached him. He continued to deal deadly fire to the enemy until a ruptured cartridge shut his weapon down. Unfazed, Hernandez sprang up from his position and charged the enemy with his inoperable rifle and his bayonet.

“As I was running, bullets were whizzing by me,” he recalled. “I ran 300 yards without stopping and killed six of the enemy in their fox hole.”

Hernandez eventually fell unconscious from grenade, bayonet and bullet wounds, but his heroic action halted the enemy long enough to enable his unit to counterattack and reclaim the lost ground.

“When it was through, I was shaking like a leaf,” he recalled.

After the battle, Hernandez was transported to an Army

hospital.

“When I woke up (at the hospital), I couldn’t talk. My right side was paralyzed, and my head was all bandaged up,” he said. “I couldn’t eat. I couldn’t walk. I couldn’t talk.”

He recalled a pleasant memory of his nurse. “She was a beautiful Japanese girl,” he fondly recollected. “She was so beautiful.”

Hernandez was not the same man after the war. The once vibrant, hard-charging young man struggled with simple functions like walking and talking.

“I had to start all over again,” he said.

His impaired state forced him to settle for low-grade jobs, collecting clothing, selling vacuums or working as a messenger. President Harry Truman helped him get the messenger job in Washington D.C., he said. The battle he fought on Korean soil transformed into a daily battle with mere existence.

He continued toiling through each day, working from job to job, enduring disappointments such as divorce and knowing that he would never reach the heights that a bright, ambitious and able-bodied young man might otherwise attain.

As the pleasant, elderly war hero sat and reflected on his post-war life, he had no regrets.

“I’ve still been able to enjoy my life, and I’m a hero,” he said.

He said the event that he is the most thankful for as a result of the war is his conversion to Christianity.

The difficulties he encountered from his wartime injuries humbled and prepared him to accept Christ and his philosophy, he explained.

“That really changed my life,” he said. “Everything was okay after that.”

Hernandez credits his mother for being the catalyst for his transformation.

“She prayed so much for me,” he explained.

Hernandez now enjoys the companionship of a wife and takes great pleasure in three grown children, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

“They’ve kept me going,” he said.

The war-weakened warrior sat with his Medal of Honor medallion around his neck and his kind smile still gracing his lips.

He was no longer the young, highly spirited fighting machine that single-handedly reversed an attack, but a look into his kind eyes revealed a spirit that could not be snuffed out despite numerous war wounds and a post-war life wrought with hardship. Within his indomitable heart, the kind, gentle man sitting and smiling remained a true warrior.



Rudolfo P. Hernandez

The military mold and . . .

A Monk's Life

Story and photos by Sgt. Timothy L. Rider

In California, Mu Sang would usually enjoy a trek through a mall sporting his gray monk's clothes. The reason: He actually enjoyed the stares.

In America, monks are not so common a sight as they are here in Korea, Gerber said, but the staring didn't stop when he came to Korea.

Mu Sang was born as David Gerber in Washington, D.C. and what makes him stand out is his distinctly western features. "It's kinda like you're on display," he said about being here.

Mu Sang is abbot of the Mu Sang Sa International Temple, a four-building complex currently under construction near Taejon. The Temple's standout feature is its traditional Korean temple appearance, though it is made of solid concrete.

It also stands out because, as it belongs to an international order, the monks and many of its visitors come from points all over the world. "There's a mishmash of people and cultures," said Mu Sang.

They are here because Korea, with its long history of Buddhism, makes for a great place for the fusion of ideas and cultures combined with the traditional Korean Zen Buddhist teachings, according to the Temple's Zen Master, Dae Bong, a Philadelphia native.

The results of the fusion are rewarding because everyone can discover the best things about other cultures, but learning to live in close quarters with people from different cultures is not necessarily easy.

"Americans bring their can-do spirit," said Mu Sang who became interested in Buddhism while studying Tai Chi, a form of martial arts. Wearing well-worn Nike tennis shoes and carrying a cellular telephone, he does not fit perfectly into the "traditional" mold of a Buddhist monk. His hobbies include computers and surfing the Internet.

By contrast, another monk Oh, Kwang was born in Communist Poland where religion was discouraged. "I thought religion was stupid," he said.

However, as the Iron curtain fell, he too developed an interest in martial arts, and after acquiring some books on Buddhism, became interested in its non-dogmatic style and philosophical bent.

Dae Bong became interested while he was young, after a school trip to Japan, but after a long exploration through academia and politics for ways to best help the world, he settled on Zen Buddhism because it is concerned with



The sun shines on Mu Sang's face as he ponders out the temple's window. Mu Sang, whose hobbies include computers and internet surfing, does not fit perfectly into the mold of the "traditional" Buddhist monk.

easing human suffering.

A monk is seen as a teacher or someone to conduct ceremonies, according to Oh, Kwang.

Dae Bong has seen that a monk's life is much the same all over the world and even across religious boundaries.

That life, he believes is also very similar to military life. He points out, for example, that monks must get regular haircuts, wear a uniform and pay respect to higher-ranking monks.

Mu Sang calls his home a "monk's barracks" and pointed out that monks must get up early and work together in close quarters for common goals. "When people are tight together, it invites bad Karma," he said.

The most significant similarity between the military and monk's life, however is in the manner of thinking, which Dae Bong believes in both is focused on the here and now. "My teacher believes that totally connecting with the moment is enlightenment," he said.

Dae Bong believes that military thinking is focused on similar lines, saying of Zen Buddhism, "It's not mystical. The point is it's not about going into another state of

consciousness.”

For example, to some forms of Buddhism, a gold statue of Buddha may be connected with the idea of a deity, but according to administrator, Gue Ryong Dae: “We view the Buddha only as a gold statue.”

It is connecting too much to ideas that are often a problem for foreigners when they come to Korea. When a newcomer comes to Korea from America, Dae Bong likens the process to the words from a popular Bob Dylan Song, “Something’s happening but you don’t know what it is.”

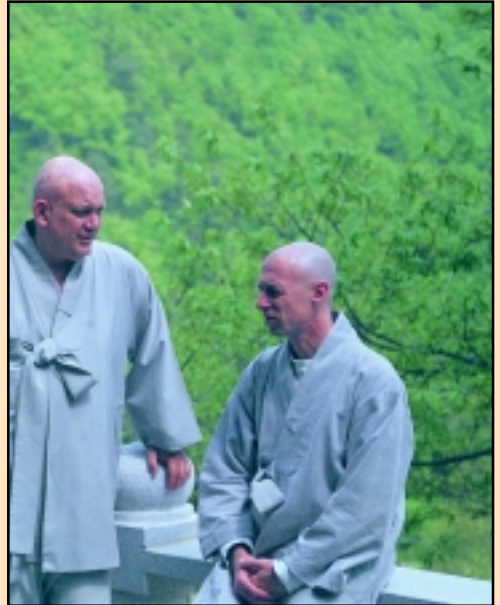
A lot of different cultures are in the Buddhist community in Korea and Dae Bong says that learning to live together with different people is a beautiful thing.

What is important for the newcomer is to recognize that other people’s viewpoints and ideas are just as valid as your own, he said. A newcomer arrives with ideas about right and wrong from home and often finds those ideas challenged by a new culture.

The situation can create a lot of negative feelings, but to apply a formula of recognizing the correct situation, correct relationship and the correct function, a lot of negativity can be avoided.

To ease the suffering associated with the move to the new culture, “Pay attention to the moment, not what is in your head,” he said.

Mu sang (left) chats with Zen Master Dae Bong on the porch of the temple. Da Bong, a Philadelphia native, feels monk life is similar to military life, in the sense that monks get regular haircuts, wear a uniform and must pay respect to their higher-ranking counterparts.



He explained that identities like man, woman, black and white are ideas that are not the “real” thing.

“When you are thinking I am an American and he is Korean, your minds are different. When you are thinking you and me, we are together,” said Dae Bong.

(Sgt. Timothy L. Rider is the editor of the Seoul Word.)



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Summer Strikes Sorak



Getting to Sorak

- ◆ The USO has monthly tours of Mt. Sorak, including one Aug. 4-6. For more information contact Yongsan's USO at 724-7781.
- ◆ Buses leave Seoul's Kangnam bus station to Sokcho every half hour.
- ◆ Planes leave Seoul's Kimpo International Airport to Sokcho daily at 7:10 a.m., 10:10 a.m. and 1:10 p.m.

Many trails offer beautiful sights like this waterfall on the west side of the mountain. Just next to this waterfall are a series of large, flat rocks which make perfect picnic areas.

Sparkling streams trickle through lush mountainsides, soothing you down to your very bones.

"I brought my family here because we heard Sorak had spectacular mountain scenery with trails and fresh air," said Richard Cunningham, a TV news producer from Sydney. "It also provided a merciful reprieve from the heat of Seoul."

Frustrated city dwellers, though, aren't the only ones enticed and won over by Sorak's tranquillity.

"People from all over Korea consider Mt. Sorak the most beautiful area in the country," said Park, Sung Bae, a tourist making his first visit to Sorak in 20 years.

He now resides in Chicago, but he grew up in southwestern Korea.

Story and photos by Pfc. Edgar R. Gonzalez

Be it with summer love or summer school, summer has always impacted our world in ways which we have little choice but to recognize.

And now it's done it again.

Summer has exploded all over the popular winter resort of Mt. Sorak and shattered its icy façade, exposing the

spectacular summer getaway underneath.

Mt. Sorak is now a target for heat-seeking vacationers everywhere.

Its beaches offer soft, fluffy sand to cushion your bare feet. Spicy, succulent foods squelch the hunger you earned negotiating any of the hundreds of hiking trails in the area.

"I came here while I was still in school," said Park, "and, walking around here, I feel that young again."

Millions of people throughout the world visit Sorak each year seeking a similar enchantment.

"Our local travel agent (in Australia) told us about Mt. Sorak," said Cunningham, "and I'm glad she did. This place is just what we were looking for."

The Cunnighams wanted to showcase Korea's natural elegance and wild beauty to their children.

"Our oldest son, David, (10), was born in Korea," he said. "We adopted him when he was still a baby, and this is his first time back."

"We wanted to give him something to be proud of."

Though known throughout the world, Mt. Sorak has maintained its intimate, small-town flavor.

"Millions of people visit here each year," said a local taxi driver, "but it never seems crowded."

Perhaps this is because the entire Mt. Sorak resort area is isolated from the world its visitors are there to get away from.

Mt. Sorak, the highest peak in the Taebaek Mountains, is located on the northeastern part of Korea, hidden away by mountains to the west and the East Sea to the east, with the border with North Korea to the north.

Sokcho, the city at the heart of the resort area, is

a three to four hour bus ride from Seoul – the last of hour spent on winding roads that offer breathtaking views of the green valleys below.

"It's a bus ride or a plane ride," said Park of the ways to Mt. Sorak. "The bus can be a little long, but the sights make up for it."

Once there, one faces delicious if not difficult decisions to make. Hiking? Swimming? Mountain climbing? Tanning? Parasailing?...

The choices are as endless as the blue sky above.

"A dedicated tourist can enjoy everything Sorak has to offer," said Park.

"If he stays around here for a year or two," he added.

While not many people can afford to spend that much time there, they can probably afford to foot the bill for a weeklong or an extended-weekend stay.

Hotel prices are as low as W25,000 a night. Most are a five-minute taxi drive from the beaches. Buses offer W600 rides twice each hour to the more distant trails and mountains. Some trails are as much as 45 minutes away.

But not much of Sorak lies beyond the touch of the sun and cool breezes that make it the summer paradise more and more people are discovering it to be.

"Most Koreans visit Sorak at least once in their life," said Park.

"American soldiers," he said, "and any other person visiting Korea should definitely take advantage of their opportunity to do the same."



Above: Park, Sung Bae strolls along a creek with his wife, Han, Soo Min.

Center: Two locals enjoy the day by splashing and playing over the ocean with rented jet skies. Tourists can rent jet skis, parasail or water ski.

Bottom: Moon, Joo Woo throws his body at the volleyball in an effort to keep the point going. The beach's soft sand provided a pleasant place to land.

Overcoming explosive obstacles

2nd Inf. Div. combat engineers clear the way

Story and photos by

Pfc. Michael Little

What do you get when you take one rocket, more than 1,800 pounds of C-4, a tank and a squad of high-speed engineers from the 2nd Infantry Division? The key to unleashing an unstoppable force with devastating fighting capabilities.

By firing rockets — with 1,840 pounds of C-4 attached — across minefields then detonating the high-explosives, the soldiers of the 2nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Inf. Div.

provide avenues of attack for those who follow. This is extremely important in Korea where minefields appear to cover the landscape.

“The Mine Clearing Line Charge, MICLIC, is designed for combined breaching operations. This is a capability that allows us to use an explosive breach without dismounting engineers on the ground,” said Lt. Col. Tim White, 2nd Eng. Bn. commander.

Essentially, a rocket is fired over a mine field dragging a line charge of C-4 behind it. One the rocket lands and the charge is in place, the engineers detonate the explosives creating a lane for the rest of the attack force to safely

Soldiers from 2-72nd Armor plow the breach lane to make sure it is clear of land mines.



travel through.

travel through.

“This capability allows us to shoot a rocket 162 meters. When the line charge detonates it will clear a lane 100 meters long and 14 meters wide through a field of mines,” said White.



Safety procedures are performed on the MICLIC detonator.

This lane allows the “warfighters” of the division to maintain momentum of attack maneuverability, according to White.

“That’s the beauty of this system; it prevents us from having to dismount and wait,” he said.

Because of the dangers of the explosive elements in the MICLIC, it is essential the engineers operating the system check and recheck every portion of the system to ensure a

safe breach. “We use 1,840 lbs. of explosive C-4; if it were to be hit by a round or a shock wave it would wipe everything out,” said Sgt. Juan Carrasco, MICLIC operator and squad leader, 1st squad, 1st platoon, Company B.

Carrasco said the safety checks make sure there’s no way that an electrical charge can detonate the C-4 or the rocket prematurely.

The power released by the MICLIC explosion is enormous, so it seems as if it would take a soldier with nerves of steel to withstand the shock and successfully complete a breach. “The rocket is very powerful, so once it is launched it’s very loud. Since we are only 62 meters from the explosion, it really shakes us up!” he said.

Although the breaching operation can be extremely nerve wracking, none of this seems to stop these soldiers from having the confidence needed to operate this system and complete their mission.

“Without this weapon we would have to run into the minefield, place the C-4 blocks next to each mine and try to plow them out of the way. With it we can keep soldiers off the ground and safe from enemy sniper fire. It’s a lot faster and safer for the soldier, and I’m very confident in its ability,” said Carrasco.

As a wartime operation a MICLIC breach involves many

“The engineers don’t come to the battlefield alone. They come to the battlefield as a combined arms team.”
2nd Eng. Bn. commander
Lt. Col. Tim White



Sgt. 1st Class William Calhoun (left) and Sgt. Juan Carrasco perform pre-fire safety checks on the MICLIC.

elements.

This was displayed during a live fire exercise July 13 at the Korean Training Center, located about 10 kilometers north of Camp Casey, Tonduchon.

“The engineers don’t come to the battlefield alone,” said White. “They come to the battlefield as a combined arms team. When the engineers do the breach there will be a tank in front.

The purpose of the tank is to protect the engineers and proof (plow) the lane, to make sure there aren’t any mines inside the lane after the breach has been conducted. In addition, markers are placed on the outer edges of the lane as guides for soldier and tracked vehicles that must pass through the lane,” he said.

“However, there are three things that happen before

that. First, we have dismounted infantrymen come and clear out the valley. Then, to make sure the site is secured, we have artillery pop-in smoke to obscure their movements. This will suppress the enemy, and keep them from engaging the engineers, the breach force or the support force during the operation once they get to the breach site,” said White.

The MICLIC is an essential piece of equipment to the 2nd Inf. Div., and its offensive war-fighting mission.

“The MICLIC is an asset that is really a key to the battalion and the division.

Each task force has a platoon supporting it with two MICLICs, and given the terrain in Korea, a bypass or alternate route is rarely an option,” said 2nd Lt. Marc Scheidig, platoon leader, 1st Plt., B Co. “There are mostly valleys here, which give us limited avenues of approach. So we have to produce a lane, and the MICLIC is the preferred method to do this,” he said.

“Because the North Korean minefields, as we know them, tend to be rather short, We can clear them easily with the MICLIC, and it doesn’t hinder the speed in which the task force can react to an attack or a counter-attack,” said Scheidig.

With this weapon, the soldiers of the 2nd Inf. Div. can swiftly deliver devastating blows to any of its enemies. This capability allows this division to maintain peace on the peninsula

50 YEARS LATER . . .

We honor the past, prepare for the future

By Spc. Juli Gonzalez

“Courage then, Freedom now,” words engraved on the Army’s 225th Birthday Ball commemorative coin “truly summarizes what the 50th commemoration ceremonies are all about,” said Spc. Y. S. Park, administrative specialist with the 23rd Area Support Group.

One of the recent Korean War commemoration ceremonies held to honor those who fought in the first major battle took place July 5 at the Task Force Smith Memorial north of Osan. It was at this exact site where the vastly outnumbered American soldiers used everything they had and fought the North Korean troops as they rushed full force up the hills of Jukmiryeong.

Four days prior to the battle, American soldiers, providing occupation duty after World War II at Camp Woods, Kumamoto, Japan, were enjoying leisure-time activities after receiving their paychecks.

Before most of the soldiers went to bed, and while some were still out having fun that night, the alert sounded. They were immediately loaded onto trucks and sent off to Korea, leaving their belongings behind, most never to return, according to Wayne Leach, a Task Force Smith veteran from Oklahoma City.

“We thought we were coming here to guard the airport, secure it while the KMAGs (Korean Military Advisory Group) were evacuated. However, we were taken to Osan. I guess what MacArthur really tried to do was



Spc. Juli Gonzalez

show a military presence and reinforce the South Koreans, which ultimately bought time for our forces to defensively position themselves further south,” Leach said.

“We were young. I had just turned 18. We were trained to fight, but we were greatly outnumbered. We were not a complete force. We didn’t have full support, only remnants. I was a mechanic. In fact, many of the men who fought here were support personnel and unfortunately many of them didn’t make it. There were probably more support people than infantry people killed. What really hurt us was that we were not trained to retreat. There was no such thing as withdraw. We were trained to fight and win,” Leach said.

Retired Republic of Korea Army Gen. Paik, Sun Yup, who attended the Task Force Smith commemoration, said, “The Americans fought side by side with South Koreans as they will again, if needed. Fifty years ago, the allies were ill-equipped, ‘not enough men, not enough equipment.’ They

(Below) Guests pay tribute to the valiant attempt of Task Force Smith July 5 at the monument just north of Osan City.

were not deterred. Their discipline and dedication as soldiers is remembered to this day. Without the sacrifice of those who fought here 50 years ago, South Korea would not enjoy the luxuries and freedom it has today. We must continue to look back on their efforts with pride and maintain their standards to keep the freedom for which so many lives were lost.”

Another commemoration ceremony was held in Chonan, 70 miles south of Seoul. Three days after Task Force Smith, the U.S., ROK, and U.N. Forces were again overpowered by North Korean forces.

The Korea Freedom League, Chonan branch, wanted to honor the U.S. soldiers who were killed or missing in action during the battle. To this end, they created a marble monument inscribed with those soldiers’ names. The men who fought here were members of the 34th Regiment, 24th Infantry Division.

The monument was unveiled by the Korean Freedom League with the help



Bob Warner

The Chonan Battle Memorial, erected by the Korea Freedom League, Chonan Branch, is unveiled 50 years after the battle took place. The monument pays tribute to the 24th Division and lists the names on the reverse side.

of Maj. Gen. S. R. Whitcomb, assistant chief of staff for plans and operations for the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command and U.S. Forces Korea, and

various Korean officials. Later, guests laid flowers in front of the monument paying homage to those who died and paused for a moment of silence.

"This monument will remind us forever that there were brave soldiers 50 years ago who believed freedom was a cause to fight for, and by keeping the memories fresh, we are reminded of the blessing of liberty, security and safety," Whitcomb said.

"The ceremony was very moving," said Spc. Nicole Say, supply specialist, C. Co. 52nd Aviation. "It puts our presence here into perspective. Most of the soldiers stationed here today were not even born when these historic battles occurred. It makes you realize how important it is for us to be prepared; we should honor these soldiers by learning from the past."

(Spc. Juli Gonzalez works for Area III Public Affairs.)

Task Force Smith: A closer look

By Sgt. Timothy L. Rider

During the early morning hours of July 5, what would be known as Task Force Smith—540 infantry, artillery, communications and medical personnel, under the command of 21st Infantry Regiment Commander, Lt. Col. Charles B. (Brad) Smith, moved from Taejon to a location three miles north of Osan. There they began digging in.

Although short on firepower, Smith's battalion was tasked to stop the North Korean movement before it reached Pusan.

By 7 a.m., tanks were sighted approaching the position. "We all were apprehensive about the tanks, that's for sure," said Earl N. Colbey, a 24th Infantry Division veteran, "because you take those T-34s—at that time, to my knowledge—that was the best tank in the world."

Task Force Smith could hardly have been less equipped for their arrival. Eight hundred anti-tank mines arriving in Japan on June 30 were still in Pusan, and the 52nd Field Artillery units were equipped with only six high explosive Anti-Tank rounds capable of piercing T-34 body armor.

"Our 2.36 was a piece of junk," said Colbey of the bazooka rocket rounds. Smith later said munitions grew unserviceable from sitting in ammo dumps for too long. The rounds were seen bouncing off of the tanks and not exploding. Even when effective, the rounds were not powerful enough to pierce the armor of the tanks as they made their way through the pass between the two hills.

The tanks cutting through the pass created another problem in that their treads cut the communications wires between the units. Heavy rains over the previous several

days contributed to the problem by damaging the radios. "There were no communications at all," Colbey said.

Smith's infantry then prepared for the main North Korean People's Army Infantry assault. A six-mile column of trucks and infantrymen were seen at about 11 a.m. By noon the column reached within 1,000 yards and Smith's men opened fire.

An estimated 1,000 NKPA troops initially swarmed on the positions while more gathered in the frontal areas. By mid-afternoon, heavily outnumbered, flanked on both sides and running out of ammunition, Smith ordered a withdrawal. He concluded that Task Force Smith had done all it could to the point of needless sacrifice. "They could have eventually overrun us with ball bats," said Colbey.

What happened next has been characterized as a head-long retreat. As thousands more North Korean troops poured into better positions, troops panicked for fear of being left behind.

Colbey, who belonged to the medical company, stayed.

While 30-40 Americans had been killed prior to the withdrawal, the heavy fire and daylight contributed to a mass of casualties after the order. One-hundred seventy-two Americans lost their lives in the Battle of Osan Hill.

Many were also captured, including Colbey. Colbey remained a prisoner of war for 37 months and 17 days.

"I think we did a good job with what we had to work with, and what we did, we did good. We held a North Korean division for seven and one-half hours," said Colbey.

(This story is a condensed version of a story run in the KORUS Korean War Special Edition issue.)

THE ROAD TO ADULTHOOD

The choices teenagers make while on their journey

A tour in Korea is an excellent opportunity to gain insight into another culture for family members as well as servicemembers. In fact, living internationally provides extremely useful life experiences for teenagers, who are transitioning to adulthood.

Teens are benefiting in multiple ways from their experiences in Korea, according to Dr. Fran Measells, Yongsan Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service counselor.

Yet, Measells was quick to mention that Korea offers a few unique challenges for teenagers to face as they make their transition to adulthood while on the peninsula — challenges that range from dealing with a 10 p.m. curfew and keeping a job to something as serious as drug abuse and depression.

A Korean police car patrols one of the popular club-lined streets of Itaewon.

Story and Photos by Pfc. Nicole C. Adams

Although the idea of our teens using drugs is disturbing, the fact is hard drugs are not common in Korea, but experimentation with inhalants is, said Measells. Currently, some teens are using butane gas for a high — one that causes hallucinations, time distortions, and permanent brain damage and suppresses the central nervous system. “Kids are really creative. If they can’t get drugs, they get other stuff, and butane is pretty cheap,” she said.

Butane is easy to find at your local post or base exchange. Teens can purchase the inhalant easily by passing it off as a common barbecue necessity, Measells said.

While butane misuse is becoming more common these days, alcohol is still the most commonly abused drug in the United States by both teens and adults. That abuse is no less prevalent in Korea, especially for teens. “Alcohol is more accessible here. Teens can go to Itaewon and clubs and not get carded,” Measells said.

“It’s very easy to get alcohol. They don’t ask for any identification,” said Melissa K. Luciano, Seoul American High School senior.

Another SAHS student agrees that alcohol is a problem among teens in Korea. “Some of these teens have major drinking problems,” said Nellie Wang, a SAHS junior. Drinking also leads to other bad choices. “They go out, they drink, they smoke and have sex,” she said.

“When my friends are drinking they do things they wouldn’t normally do sober,” Luciano added.

“Teens drink and get high to feel different, or feel better and sometimes to escape depression, said Maj. James J. Staudenmeier, psychiatrist, 121st General Hospital.

“Depression is still one of the number one

emotional issues teens face,” Measells said. For teens living in Korea, depression may be caused and complicated by multiple factors such as relocations and lost friendships.

“I’m depressed here. I used to have a lot of friends who I would play sports with and now I don’t have as many friends,” said SAHS Freshman Robert C. Kane. “I feel like I don’t fit in because people here don’t like the same kind of stuff (I do).”

Measells believes that good family bonds and communication play a part in the way teens handle day-to-day problems. For example, “You can have (a teens) who has an adjustment depression. A tight knit family with a strong bond could get them into community activities which can get them over the hump,” she said.

Col. Steven D. Holtman, 34th Support Group commander, is working to organize activities to keep Yongsan teens occupied. “If we don’t give them things to do the only option they have is to go off post.”

One SAHS junior agrees that idle hands may be the devil’s workshop. “There’s not a lot of stuff to do. That’s why people tend to go out more and get into drinking,” said Gretchen Y. Rice, SAHS junior.

Kane agreed that having more things to do would help teens stay out of trouble.



Jamie L. Robinson, a summer hire for Summer Trek, tests napkin parachutes with two members of the white group.

One of Holtman’s plans for Yongsan teens begins in August when teens will have the Underground club to themselves one night a month.

He is also working to remodel the post’s bowling alley to bring in ‘extreme bowling,’ which uses black lights as a light source and replaces the traditional pins with neon pins that glow under the black lights. With the addition of ‘extreme bowling,’ Holtman hopes to create a more

dynamic entertainment center, which may attract more teens.

Holtman believes that volunteering is one of the best programs to keep youth busy and said that though teens may not be able to find profit-oriented jobs, volunteers will always be welcome.

There are many other programs teens can get involved with in order to keep them out of trouble and give them an alternative to



Christine J. Alequin, a Junior at SAHS, works with the green group to make friendship bracelets at Summer Trek 2000. Summer Trek is a program run from June 26 to August 20 for elementary age children.

Symptoms of ...

Alcohol Use

- ~Odor on the breath.
- ~Intoxication.
- ~Difficulty focusing: glazed appearance of the eyes.
- ~Uncharacteristically passive behavior; or combative and argumentative behavior.
- ~Sudden deterioration in personal appearance and hygiene.
- ~Gradual development of dysfunction, especially in job performance or school work.
- ~Absenteeism (particularly on Monday).
- ~Unexplained bruises and accidents.
- ~Irritability.
- ~Flushed skin.
- ~Loss of memory (blackouts).
- ~Changes in peer-group associations and friendships.
- ~Impaired interpersonal relationships

Depression

- ~Persistent sad or "empty" mood.
- ~Feeling hopeless, helpless, worthless, pessimistic and or guilty .
- ~Fatigue or loss of interest in ordinary activities.
- ~Disturbances in eating and sleeping patterns.
- ~Irritability, increased crying, anxiety and panic attacks.
- ~Difficulty concentrating, remembering or making decisions.
- ~Thoughts of suicide, plans or attempts.
- ~Persistent physical symptoms or pains that do not respond to treatment.

Drug Use

- ~Abrupt changes in school attendance, quality of work, work output, grades, discipline.
- ~Unusual flare-ups or outbreaks of temper.
- ~Withdrawal from responsibility.
- ~General changes in overall attitude.
- ~Deterioration of physical appearance and grooming.
- ~Wearing of sunglasses at inappropriate times.
- ~Continual wearing of long-sleeved garments particularly in hot weather or reluctance to wear short sleeved attire when appropriate.
- ~Association with known substance abusers.
- ~Unusual borrowing of money from friends, co-workers or parents.

going off post. Teens can hang out at the teen center, bowl, golf, take cooking classes or do arts and crafts for free.

So, there is hope.

For parents and teens who may need a little more help, counseling is available from ASACS, which specializes in helping both the teen and the parent. ASACS' staff meets weekly with the high school, getting referrals from teachers and students about teens who need help.

"Kids are the best referrals of friends because they worry about their friends," Measells said.

"The goal is to intervene early," said Andrea Donoghue, clinical supervisor at ASACS. And she pointed out that most teen problems of today are similar to those of the past. The idea of teenagers sniffing and drinking is likely to alarm parents, but the majority of teens are getting a lot from living in Korea, she said.

Teens are benefiting in multiple ways from their experiences in Korea, according to Scott Copus, director at Youth Services. "Continually reestablishing yourself will make you stronger in life because you are going to have to do the same things in jobs and college. It

"In Korea there's a lot of opportunity to meet people of a foreign country and learn how they live."

***Maj. James J. Staudenmeier,
121st General Hospital***

makes kids more outgoing, open to change and open to culture."

And, teens that move internationally are well aware of politics in government and are much more astute than teens their age in the states. Measells added

Coming to Korea is not the nightmare that many fear. "There's a lot of opportunity to meet people of a foreign country and learn how they live. And for teens who are Amerasian, it is a good opportunity to learn their roots," Staudenmeier said.

For information about resources and programs for youth in your area, contact your local Army Community Services or the Yongsan ASACS at 738-6815, or in Taegu at 768-7028.



Melissa K. Luciano, Seoul American High School senior puts together a puzzle with one of the members of Summer Trek's red group.

Every month the KORUS staff travels throughout the peninsula searching for stories to spark our readers' interest. Inevitably, many individuals who are vital to the U.S. Forces Korea mission will be left out, but occasionally a few will be given the chance to...

Represent USFK

Story and photos by Pfc. Nicole C. Adams

Airman First Class Crystal M. Thorne, Passenger service advocate with the 631st Air Mobility Support Squadron on Osan Air Base, where the majority of U.S. Forces Korea servicemembers arrive, has been in Korea for just over a month.

Hometown: Hazelton, Indiana

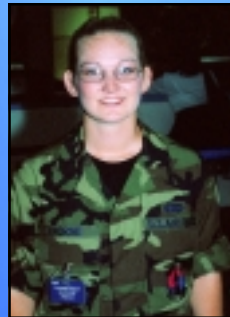
What do you like most about

Korea? "My organization is very close-knit. Everyone is like a family and we take care of each other."

How long have you been working for/with the military and where have you served? "I have been in for two years and served at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware and now here."

What is your dream duty station? "I want to go everywhere. My dream would be to go to every country before I retire."

What is your job within the unit and what do you like about it? "I keep passengers happy. I make sure they



have all the information about any base facilities, make sure they know if they are eligible to fly on Air Mobility Command flights. And, I check to make sure their baggage is within requirements."

What is your unit's mission? "My entire unit is responsible for moving cargo, passenger and special handling items such as explosives or any hazardous material, mail, and anything of very high value."

Who is the person you respect most in your unit?

"The non-commissioned officer in charge of the whole passenger terminal, Tech Sgt. Russell. He's very knowledgeable about the job and very professional. He has several degrees and lots of education."

What is the most interesting thing you have seen or done while in Korea? "I had dinner with a Korean couple and I'm trying to teach them conversational English and they are trying to teach me some Korean also. I'm trying to learn their culture."

Your parting shot: "You have to make your own way in this world and make things happen. You can't spend all of your time dreaming, you have to do it."

Han, Tae Hyon, Korean Government Service 9, has been a communications specialist with Practical Support Activities, 1st Signal Brigade located on Camp Market in Inchon for more than 36 years.

Hometown: Inchon, Korea

What do you like most about

Korea? "I like Inchon. I've never go places besides when I travel."

How long have you been working for/with the military and where have you served? "I have been working for the military since April, 1966. I worked at Camp Page for a couple of years and I worked at the Beason site for four years."

What is your dream duty station? "Once I am completely retired, in December 2001, I want to travel in the United States. My brother-in-law lives in New Jersey so I

especially want to go there."

What is your job within the unit and what do you like about it? "I'm the bill of material coordinator. I coordinate what comes in and out of PSA. It's fun and exciting. You have lots of things to work on including sending out items and substituting if you don't have the exact item needed."

What is your unit's mission?

"First we distribute contracted material throughout the peninsula



when it comes in. Then when projected bill of material comes in from the supply point in the United States, we are ready to do project installation and deliver to coordinating unit."

Who is the person you respect most in your unit? "Gary Zentner. He has been working here with me for ten years and he is really polite and he explains things easily."

What is the most interesting thing you have seen or done while in Korea? The Korean Conflict from 1950-1953 was interesting. I was too young to be a soldier and go to war. Everybody was drifting in hunger. Everything after that was plain."

Your parting shot: "I was born in North Korea. I wish I could see North and South Korea together before I die because I would like to go back to my hometown, a village west of Haeju."

Just setting foot on the Korean peninsula

1st Replacement NCOs get USFK's newest soldiers going in the right direction

Stories and photos by Sgt. John Rozean

Getting off to a good start contributes to the success of just about any endeavor. And that is definitely true for U.S. Army soldiers arriving in Korea — kicking-off what may be one of the most challenging tours of their military career.

The mission of an entire company based out of Yongsan, Korea, is completely dedicated to getting soldiers who arrive in Korea heading in the right direction.

“We try to get them started on the right track,” said Capt. Christopher A. Crooks, 1st Replacement Company commander. “Our company motto is ‘Action Starts Here,’ which is true because we are the first to meet all of Korea’s new soldiers, and they will get their first impression of Korea from us.

“We make sure they are taken care of,” said the 1st Replacement commander, “because folks have to go where they are needed.”

Newcomers are greeted and directed by movement noncommissioned officers at both Kimpo International Airport and Osan Air Base. The movement NCOs initiate the soldier’s in-processing procedures before the newcomers ever leave the airport.

The in-processing of Korea’s newest soldiers is a systematic method that can sometimes be mind-boggling to the untrained observer as well as the weary travelers just arriving in Korea. “We try to keep it simple (because) we realize that they are tired (from the 14-hour or so flight),” said Staff Sgt. Jeff Lewis, a movement NCO who was herding soldiers onto buses outside of Osan’s MAC terminal in mid-June — a time of the month he said is the busiest.

“We try to help out as much as possible, and every NCO has their own personality and way of keeping everybody motivated,” he said pointing to another movement NCO, Staff Sgt. Anthony Daniels, who was giving an orientation briefing aboard one of the buses.

“He is kind of loud, but he makes every one feel comfortable,” added Lewis.

“Every body hear that?” Daniels asked the newcomers aboard his bus after he put out some valuable information. They nodded in agreement. Daniels would occasionally use a microphone installed on the bus to bark out instructions like an overzealous Hollywood tour-guide.



While Daniels may be all business, he doesn’t forget the human factor. He said he tries to make the experience as easy as possible for the newcomers by sharing a few jokes. “I like to get every body laughing,” he said. Daniels continuously demonstrated a positive “can-do” attitude. “That’s not a problem,” is a phrase he often uses when confronting adversity.

Daniels is just one of the many hand-picked, professional NCOs assigned to 1st Replacement. “Most of our people are self-motivated, and they enjoy what they are doing,” said Crooks.

“This is an excellent job,” said Staff Sgt. Carlos Stigger, another movement NCO who was at the Kimpo Airport gig one night last month. “I get to meet all of Korea’s newest faces,” he added.

(Photo left) Sgt. 1st Class David McClintock (foreground) and 2nd Lt. Lawrence Tomazieski roll their luggage out of the baggage claim area at Kimpo International Airport. (On the Right) Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army Sgt. Lee, Jung Hun offers some advice to an incoming soldier, who could not help but notice the 1st Replacement 'stop sign.' (Below) Sgt. Barrett Smith points an arriving soldier in the right direction outside the Osan Air Base MAC terminal.



"This is an excellent job."

**Staff Sgt. Carlos Stigger
1st RC movement NCO**

"The sooner everyone gets that paper-work done, the sooner we can get you all into a hotel room," Stigger said to a group of tired faces, belonging to soldiers who were sitting on their luggage and filling out forms. They had just arrived on a late-night flight into Kimpo and were anxious to get some sleep.

Kimpo sometimes presents the movement personnel with some complicated scenarios — like lost baggage. One night, Sgt. Lee, Jung Hun, also of 1st Replacement, found himself searching for incoming 2nd Lt. Lawrence Tomazieski's baggage, which evidently did not make the trip to Kimpo with Tomazieski. Lee was unsuccessful in his search, but he helped Tomazieski fill out the proper forms needed to get his baggage back promptly. "It happens at least once a day. I am not happy about that," Lee said.

But luckily, "(The airlines) usually get the baggage to them the next day," said Stigger. "We do our best to help."

"We provide full customer service," said 1st RC 1st Sgt. Yong-Hul Schaller. "Like my commander always says, 'we make sure we do the right thing for the soldier,'" by making sure all the soldiers coming to Korea get started on the right foot.

'Putting out' the positive

The 1st Replacement Company does more than just make sure soldiers are in-processed and promptly sent on their way to the gaining units. During orientation briefings, movement noncommissioned officers give briefings that encourage new soldiers to make the most of their upcoming Korean tour.

"I tell them, 'You're going to be here regardless, it will be what you make of it,'" said Sgt. Barrett Smith, one of 1st Replacement Company's movement NCOs.

Although instilling a positive attitude about Korea and the year ahead is ultimately the responsibility of the gaining units, the company does what it can during the soldier's first few days, according to Capt. Christopher A. Crooks, 1st Replacement company commander.

"We put out straight information about what Korea is like and emphasize the positive aspects," he said.

"In my opinion, Korea is a good tour. There are a lot of things to do, and you can have a lot of fun here," said 1st

RC 1st Sgt. 1st Sgt. Yong-Hul Schaller. But, "all we can do is put out the information. It is up to the soldiers whether they use it or not," she said.

One soldier, Staff Sgt. Keith Cockril, who PCSed from Red Stone Arsenal, Ala., to Korea last month, felt the briefings were filled with good information.

He plans to make the most of his tour here. "I'll do my best at my job, and at the same time get some college. It will make the time go faster. Because if all you do is drink, it will make for a long year."



FINAL FRAME

A group of tourists hike their way between the towering trees that frame the path to a Buddhist temple outside of Kwangju.

PHOTO BY PFC. EDGAR R. GONZÁLEZ